

ment. The birth, the temptation, the agony, and the resurrection of Jesus were all attended by angelic manifestations. (2) *When the King comes we may expect to see his servants.* **Rolled back the stone.** The stone was probably in shape like a large mill-stone, round, and set in a groove on which it was rolled. The coming of the angel was not to open the door for the risen Saviour, for he needed no aid to pass through it; but to show to the guards, the women, and the disciples that an almighty force was at work.

3. His countenance. Revised Version, "His appearance;" not merely his face, but his entire manifestation. **Was like lightning.** There was a human figure (Mark), but shining with an intense brightness. **Raiment white as snow.** Such as is elsewhere described as the garments of those who dwell in heaven. (3) *May we be ready to wear those robes of glory!*

4. For fear of him. Both the women and the keepers feared, but the weak women drew near out of love to their Lord, while the strong men fell, then fled in mortal terror. **The keepers did shake.** Revised Version, "Did quake;" the verb being from the same root as the word "earthquake" in verse 2. **Became as dead men.** "Utterly unstrung in their strength, unnerved, unmanned."—*Morison*. Such is the effect always when a heavenly being is manifested to a mortal. (4) *These earthen vessels must put on the heavenly before we can look upon the King in his beauty.*

5. Said unto the women. Not deigning to speak to the keepers, who were in no condition to hear them; for only those whose spiritual natures are quickened can apprehend the spiritual. **Fear not ye.** In almost all instances the first words of an angel, as recorded in Scripture, are, "Fear not." **Ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.** To the angels as well as to us he is Jesus the crucified; the Lamb that was slain. (5) *In earth and in heaven the highest glory of Christ is his cross.*

6. He is not here. Already the tomb was empty, and the Saviour had risen. (6) *Since Jesus has risen we can say this of every tomb where the body of a saint lies buried.* **He is risen, as he said.** Many times had Jesus predicted his own resurrection, but his words had either been misunderstood as figurative, or made no impression. See Matt. 16, 21; 17, 22, 23; 20, 17-19. **Come, see the place.** Comparing the accounts of the four gospels and the plan of ancient tombs, we conclude that the sepulcher consisted of two rooms, an outer and an inner, between which stood the stone. The women were already in the outer room when the angel spoke to them. They now looked within and saw the linen cloths and the napkin which had been fastened upon the body (Luke 24, 12; John 20, 6, 7). **Where the**

Lord lay. So an angel speaks of Jesus as "the Lord," implying in the term his divine nature.

7. Go quickly. This was probably spoken after the women had looked into the inner tomb. **Tell his disciples.** Mark adds, "and Peter;" to whom the news would be most welcome of all. (7) *How quickly Christ sets believers at work.* **He goeth before you.** Not in visible form, as he had walked with them in other days, but as an invisible leader. (8) *So now he walks before his people.* **Into Galilee.** As he had promised on the night before his crucifixion (Matt. 26, 32). This was to be not his first appearance, but his great official meeting with his disciples; the one witnessed by more than five hundred people (1 Cor. 15, 6) when his commission was given. He appointed it in Galilee, as a place retired from the notice of his enemies. **Lo, I have told you.** This was the seal of his authority as God's messenger.

8. They departed. The company of women, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of Joseph, Salome, and Joanna, with perhaps others. That they soon parted company is evident from the narrative of John. **Fear and great joy.** Joy at the wonderful message, fear at the angelic appearance. **Did run.** (9) *Those that are sent on God's errand must not loiter or lose time.*—*M. Henry*. **To bring his disciples word.** Mark says, "They said nothing to any man;" that is, to no one on the way, but withheld the tidings until they saw the disciples.

9. As they went. It is evident that not all the women went together, as Mary Magdalene saw Jesus alone (John 20). **Jesus met them.** Those who were the last to look upon him dead were the first to behold him living. **All hail.** The first words of the risen Christ are words of joyful greeting. (10) *So will he welcome his saints when they arise from their graves to meet him.* **Held him by the feet.** To assure themselves of the reality of his appearance, and to express their joy, their love, and their homage. **Worshiped him.** Often did Jesus receive divine honors, and never did he refuse them. Not so did the apostles accept offered homage (Acts 3, 12; 14, 14), and even an angel refused it (Rev. 22, 9). (11) *Jesus was either a divine Being, or else a deceiver.*

10. Be not afraid. (12) *Those who love Jesus have no need to fear his coming.* **Tell my brethren.** For the first time he calls his followers brethren after his resurrection. (13) *Let us be encouraged to approach the throne, since on it sits One who is not ashamed to call us brethren* (Heb. 2, 11). Note especially that those whom Christ calls his brothers are the very ones who had so shamefully forsaken him in his hour of trial. **Into Galilee.** To a mountain, where he had promised to meet them.